

DET 40014 P2

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Corey Thomas

(Write the full name of each plaintiff who is filing this complaint. If the names of all the plaintiffs cannot fit in the space above, please write "see attached" in the space and attach an additional page with the full list of names.)

v.

Great Lakes Water Authority

(Write the full name of each defendant who is being sued. If the names of all the defendants cannot fit in the space above, please write "see attached" in the space and attach an additional page with the full list of names.)

Case:2:18-cv-13033
Judge: Cox, Sean F.
MJ: Whalen, R. Steven
Filed: 09-27-2018 At 02:00 PM
CMP THOMAS V. GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY (NA)

(to be filled in by the Clerk's Office)

Jury Trial: ☐ Yes ☐ No
(check one)

Complaint for Employment Discrimination

I. The Parties to This Complaint**A. The Plaintiff(s)**

Provide the information below for each plaintiff named in the complaint. Attach additional pages if needed.

Name	<u>Corey Thomas</u>
Street Address	<u>14715 Murthum Ave</u>
City and County	<u>Warren / Macomb County</u>
State and Zip Code	<u>Michigan 48088</u>
Telephone Number	<u>(313) 600-0955</u>
E-mail Address	<u>cothomas20@yahoo.com</u>

B. The Defendant(s)

Provide the information below for each defendant named in the complaint, whether the defendant is an individual, a government agency, an organization, or a corporation. For an individual defendant, include the person's job or title (if known). Attach additional pages if needed.

Defendant No. 1

Name	<u>Great Lakes Water Authority</u>
Job or Title (if known)	<u></u>
Street Address	<u>735 Randolph Street Suite 1900</u>
City and County	<u>Detroit / Wayne County</u>
State and Zip Code	<u>Michigan 48226</u>
Telephone Number	<u>(313) 964-9096</u>
E-mail Address (if known)	<u>Cheryl.Yapo@glwater.org</u>

Defendant No. 2

Name	<u></u>
Job or Title (if known)	<u></u>
Street Address	<u></u>
City and County	<u></u>
State and Zip Code	<u></u>
Telephone Number	<u></u>
E-mail Address (if known)	<u></u>

Defendant No. 3

Name _____

Job or Title _____

(if known) _____

Street Address _____

City and County _____

State and Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

(if known) _____

Defendant No. 4

Name _____

Job or Title _____

(if known) _____

Street Address _____

City and County _____

State and Zip Code _____

Telephone Number _____

E-mail Address _____

(if known) _____

C. Place of Employment

The address at which I sought employment or was employed by the defendant(s) is:

Name Great Lakes Water Authority

Street Address 735 Randolph

City and County Detroit/ Wayne County

State and Zip Code Michigan 48226

Telephone Number (313) 964-9096

II. Basis for Jurisdiction

This action is brought for discrimination in employment pursuant to *(check all that apply)*:

- ☒ Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as codified, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e to 2000e-17 (race, color, gender, religion, national origin).

(Note: In order to bring suit in federal district court under Title VII, you must first obtain a Notice of Right to Sue letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.)

- ☐ Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as codified, 29 U.S.C. §§ 621 to 634.

(Note: In order to bring suit in federal district court under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, you must first file a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.)

- ☐ Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as codified, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12112 to 12117.

(Note: In order to bring suit in federal district court under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you must first obtain a Notice of Right to Sue letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.)

- ☐ Other federal law *(specify the federal law)*:

- ☐ Relevant state law *(specify, if known)*:

- ☐ Relevant city or county law *(specify, if known)*:

III. Statement of Claim

Write a short and plain statement of the claim. Do not make legal arguments. State as briefly as possible the facts showing that each plaintiff is entitled to the damages or other relief sought. State how each defendant was involved and what each defendant did that caused the plaintiff harm or violated the plaintiff's rights, including the dates and places of that involvement or conduct. If more than one claim is asserted, number each claim and write a short and plain statement of each claim in a separate paragraph. Attach additional pages if needed.

A. The discriminatory conduct of which I complain in this action includes *(check all that apply)*:

- ☐ Failure to hire me.
- ☐ Termination of my employment.
- ☒ Failure to promote me.
- ☐ Failure to accommodate my disability.
- ☒ Unequal terms and conditions of my employment.
- ☐ Retaliation.
- ☐ Other acts *(specify)*:

(Note: Only those grounds raised in the charge filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission can be considered by the federal district court under the federal employment discrimination statutes.)

B. It is my best recollection that the alleged discriminatory acts occurred on date(s) Some ongoing the entire time employed, but latest problem October/2017

C. I believe that defendant(s) *(check one)*:

- ☐ is/are still committing these acts against me.
- ☐ is/are not still committing these acts against me.

D. Defendant(s) discriminated against me based on my *(check all that apply and explain)*:

- ☒ race Black
- ☐ color _____
- ☒ gender/sex Male
- ☐ religion _____
- ☐ national origin _____
- ☐ age. My year of birth is _____. *(Give your year of birth only if you are asserting a claim of age discrimination.)*
- ☐ disability or perceived disability *(specify disability)* _____

E. The facts of my case are as follows. Attach additional pages if needed.

I was the only Black Male (Office Support Specialist) in the Finance Department and through out Great Lakes Water Authority (GLWA) and some my duties were cleaning offices, pulling trash, unloading trucks, moving equipment that weighed over 150 pounds, retrieving items from (CFO) Nicolette Bateson car a couple of times etc.

Constant Physical Labor, which caused physical and emotional pain and forced me to be out on a medical leave for almost 5 months.

I accepted a temporary non professional position with (GLWA) due to me signing late, I spoke with at that time the (Controller) Mike Huber and (Manager) Monica Daniels, they stated that they would adjust my title to a professional title and adjust my pay by July 2016. Both made the attempt to make these changes in July 2016 but (CFO) Nicolette Bateson ignored and denied the request. Nicolette Bateson was the person to push Monica Daniels to try and sign me from Detroit Water and Sewage Department which I had been employed for 17 years prior to joining (GLWA)

Nicolette Bateson fired both Mike Huber and Monica Daniels and she told my current team that we could look for other positions through out the company or stay in that current title, so I attempted and tried looking in other areas such as Procurement or Contracts and Grants area where I had previous experience but know one would touch me because in the past I wanted to move, I was told by my former Manager Monica Daniels that Nicolette Bateson spoke to others and was against me moving. I was blacked balled and no one wanted to hire me other departments. Later after Nicolette force me to train other co workers with Manager Professional titles on how to do my job and turnover all my documents my duties were taking away from me Nicolette suggested I go and work for the (Information Technology) Department and this work was 95% physical labor.

I worked in the Finance Department in (Capital Improvement Program) and everyone in this area had a professional titles and made a least \$15 thousand more than me and we all did very similar work. I was the only one in this area that had a non professional title and the least paid, and there we many perks that came with the professional title that I wasn't privy to.

(Note: As additional support for the facts of your claim, you may attach to this complaint a copy of your charge filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the charge filed with the relevant state or city human rights division.)

IV. Exhaustion of Federal Administrative Remedies

A. It is my best recollection that I filed a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or my Equal Employment Opportunity counselor regarding the defendant's alleged discriminatory conduct on *(date)*
November 30, 2017

B. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission *(check one)*:

- ☐ has not issued a Notice of Right to Sue letter.
☒ issued a Notice of Right to Sue letter, which I received on *(date)*

July 3, 2018

(Note: Attach a copy of the Notice of Right to Sue letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to this complaint.)

C. Only litigants alleging age discrimination must answer this question.

Since filing my charge of age discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regarding the defendant's alleged discriminatory conduct *(check one)*:

- ☒ 60 days or more have elapsed.
☐ less than 60 days have elapsed.

V. Relief

State briefly and precisely what damages or other relief the plaintiff asks the court to order. Do not make legal arguments. Include any basis for claiming that the wrongs alleged are continuing at the present time. Include the amounts of any actual damages claimed for the acts alleged and the basis for these amounts. Include any punitive or exemplary damages claimed, the amounts, and the reasons you claim you are entitled to actual or punitive money damages. Attach additional pages if needed.

Forced to work in a non professional title with a low salary, while my co workers have professional titles and making at least \$15 thousand more per year during similar work. I held a professional title for Detroit Water and Sewage Department for 17 years prior to transferring over to (GLWA).

Slander and or blackballed by CFO Nicolette Bateson on hindering me on moving to other better job opportunities.

Physical & Emotional pain due to the physical labor as the only black male in the (Office Support Specialist) title.

Damages \$500,000.00

VI. Certification and Closing

Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11, by signing below, I certify to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief that this complaint: (1) is not being presented for an improper purpose, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation; (2) is supported by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law; (3) the factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery; and (4) the complaint otherwise complies with the requirements of Rule 11.

A. For Parties Without an Attorney

I agree to provide the Clerk's Office with any changes to my address where case-related papers may be served. I understand that my failure to keep a current address on file with the Clerk's Office may result in the dismissal of my case.

Date of signing: September 27, 2018.

Signature of Plaintiff

Corey Thomas

Printed Name of Plaintiff

Corey Thomas

Additional Information:

I never received any kind of raise or pay adjustment for over 2 plus years until I got AFSCME involved with a meeting regarding this subject with the HR Department and finally I got a 3% raised a week before we meet the HR Department.

CFO Nicolette Bateson pushed former (Manager) Monica Daniels to try and sign me away from Detroit Water Sewage Department to (GLWA) because no one else had my information and knowledge regarding my section (Capital Improvement Program), but I found out later after looking in my personal file that she only wanted to keep me temporary.

Once again I was the only Black Male doing constant physical labor in the title (Office Support Specialist).

EEOC Form 161 (11-16)

U.S. EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY COMMISSION

DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS

To: **Corey Thomas**
14715 Murthum Ave
Warren, MI 48088

From: **Detroit Field Office**
477 Michigan Avenue
Room 865
Detroit, MI 48226

☐

On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is
CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))

EEOC Charge No.

EEOC Representative

Telephone No.

471-2018-00659

Donald R. Lake,
Investigator

(313) 226-4622

THE EEOC IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:

☐

The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC.

☐

Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.

☐

The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.

☐

Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge.

☒

The EEOC issues the following determination: Based upon its investigation, the EEOC is unable to conclude that the information obtained establishes violations of the statutes. This does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. No finding is made as to any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.

☐

The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.

☐

Other (briefly state)

- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS -

(See the additional information attached to this form.)

Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act: This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit must be filed **WITHIN 90 DAYS** of your receipt of this notice; or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)

Equal Pay Act (EPA): EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that **backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible.**

On behalf of the Commission

Enclosures(s)

[Signature]
Michelle Eisele,
District Director

7/3/18
 (Date Mailed)

cc:

GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY
c/o Cheryl Yapo, Esq.
735 Randolph Street, Suite 1900
Detroit, MI 48226

JS 44 (Rev. 06-17)

CIVIL COVER SHEET

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained herein neither replace nor supplement the filing provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

Case 2:18-cv-13033 Judge: Cox, Sean F.

MJ: Whalen, R. Steven

Filed: 09-27-2018 At 02:00 PM

CMP THOMAS V. GREAT LAKES WATER AUTHORITY (NA)

I. (a) PLAINTIFFS

Corey Thomas

DEFENDANTS

Great Lakes Water Authority

(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff **Macomb**
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)

County of Residence of First Listed Defendant **Wayne**
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Attorneys (If Known)

II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question (U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 4 Diversity (Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff and One Box for Defendant)

- | | PTF | DEF | | PTF | DEF |
|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| Citizen of This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business In This State | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business In Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 |

IV. NATURE OF SUIT (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

Click here for: Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	PERSONAL INJURY <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability PERSONAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other LABOR <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act IMMIGRATION <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 PROPERTY RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark SOCIAL SECURITY <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) FEDERAL TAX SUITS <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS - Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
REAL PROPERTY <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	CIVIL RIGHTS <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w. Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w. Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	PRISONER PETITIONS Habeas Corpus: <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty Other: <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Conditions <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

V. ORIGIN (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☐ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
- ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

VI. CAUSE OF ACTION

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

Brief description of cause:
Employment Discrimination

VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:

☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$ 500,000.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☒ No

VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

FOR OFFICE USE ONLY

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

PURSUANT TO LOCAL RULE 83.11

1. Is this a case that has been previously dismissed?

☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, give the following information:

Court: _____

Case No.: _____

Judge: _____

2. Other than stated above, are there any pending or previously discontinued or dismissed companion cases in this or any other court, including state court? (Companion cases are matters in which it appears substantially similar evidence will be offered or the same or related parties are present and the cases arise out of the same transaction or occurrence.)

☐ Yes
☒ No

If yes, give the following information:

Court: _____

Case No.: _____

Judge: _____

Notes :
